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XXIX.—*On the Ornithology of Cyprus.*

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ALTHOUGH during the last thirty years several valuable papers have been published upon the birds of Cyprus, I am not aware that any attempt has hitherto been made to present a systematic account of its Ornithology by one who has had the advantage of local residence for any lengthy period. The opportunity afforded by being stationed in the island in an official capacity for the past two years has enabled me to collect the observations and material for the present paper.

The geographical position and physical features of Cyprus are so generally familiar as to call for little remark in an article of this character. It is probably sufficient to state here that the island is situated between $34^{\circ} 33'$ and $35^{\circ} 41'$ north latitude and between $32^{\circ} 20'$ and $34^{\circ} 35'$ east longitude; its greatest length is about a hundred and forty miles and its greatest breadth—*i. e.* from north to south—about sixty miles. Cyprus is the third largest island in the Mediterranean, its area being 3584 square miles.

It lies tucked away in the angle between Asia Minor on the north and Syria on the east; from the former its nearest point is but forty-six, from the latter about sixty miles. From Port Said on the south it is some two hundred and sixty miles distant. Its chief physical features are two mountain-ranges and a broad flat plain between them. Both ranges run east and west; the southern, which is

extensive and constitutes the main watershed of the island, is, on the whole, well wooded with *Pinus pinaster*, *Pinus laricio*, *Juniperus fœtidissima*, *Quercus alnifolia*, *Arbutus andrachne*, and other trees, and rises to a height of no less than 6406 feet above sea-level. The northern range, although extending in all a distance of some hundred miles (the eastern forty-five of which constitute a thin promontory), is narrow, reaches only 3135 feet at its highest point, is not so well stocked with trees, and is generally of less importance.

The southern mountains are known as the Troödos and the northern as the Kyrenia, though the long eastern horn of the latter is termed "the Karpas." The plain, which is called the Mesaoria, extends right across the island, and is some sixty miles long and from ten to twenty broad.

Of the whole area of the island about seven hundred square miles are forest lands (a good deal, however, of which is mere scrub or but sparsely dotted with trees and bushes), about seventeen hundred are under cultivation, about seven hundred are composed of rocky ground incapable of cultivation, and the remaining four hundred are uncultivated. The island is fertile and displays the usual features of agriculture common on those shores of the Mediterranean to which it lies adjacent; barley, wheat, oats, caroubs, grapes, olives, cotton, sesame, aniseed, linseed, hemp, beans, vegetables, and fruits (such as oranges, lemons, melons, pomegranates, and nectarines) are cultivated extensively.

The climate is not unhealthy; the winter is wet and cold, the summer dry and hot; the highest portions of the southern mountains are covered with snow from about mid-November till mid-April; the heat in July, August, and September in the plains is very great, but in the high mountains the summer months are cool and can be pleasantly enjoyed.

The rivers are, with the exception of a few small perpetual streams, mountain-torrents, in flood after heavy rain and dry during the hot weather. There are large salt-lakes near Limassol and Larnaca, and two extensive freshwater reservoirs, recently constructed, in the Famagusta district, all of which are very favourite resorts of migratory water-birds.

There are at Morphou, Limassol, and in a good many other parts of the island, marshes of some extent, where fair wild-fowl and snipe shooting is obtainable in winter.

There are approximately a quarter of a million inhabitants.

The published information concerning the avifauna of Cyprus is fairly plentiful. Amongst the constant string of visitors to the island, even during the times of the Lusignan Kings, not a few wrote accounts of their travels, and from these records * we can occasionally gather stray notes on the birds which attracted the attention of the early travellers. Thus, about 1336, one learns from a Westphalian cleric that a nobleman at the Court of Hugues IV. (the ninth monarch of the Lusignan dynasty) kept ten or eleven falconers with special pay and allowances; from another legal visitor in 1394 one gathers that King Jacques I. owned three hundred hawks of all kinds; a third gentleman receives from that King a gift of one hundred partridges; in 1508 a Tyrolese stranger praises the melodious singing of the wild birds; the doves and very fat partridges delight the heart of a priest of Brie in 1533. John Locke, an Englishman who visited the island in 1553, gives a long and accurate account of the Griffon Vulture and the first—so far as I am aware—notice of the trade, even then well established, in pickled or marinated “Beccaficos,” of which he states “they annually send almost 1200 jarres or pots to Venice.” Many subsequent writers refer to this article of diet, still a favourite island dainty.

Quails and Wood-Pigeons figure in a Jew’s letter written in 1563, detailing the price of Cyprus commodities.

From the Seigneur de Villamont of Brittany we learn in 1589 that it was the practice for the Turkish Pasha of Cyprus to commandeer on behalf of the Sultan, under penalty of death, all falcons caught by the peasantry on the cliffs of Cape Gata near Limassol—the villagers luring the hawks by means of pigeon-decoys and capturing them in net entanglements, and in return for these services living rent and tax free. From the same authority we hear of “red and black

* ‘*Excerpta Cypria*,’ by C. D. Cobham, C.M.G. 1908

“birds which fly in flocks together like Starlings and which, as soon as they come to Cyprus, with their song and flight destroy the locusts which infest the Island.”

The capturing of hawks and their compulsory despatch to the Sultan is mentioned by an English visitor in 1596.

A Utrecht lawyer in 1598 mentions that “the number of different birds is very large: Woodpigeons, Quails, Partridges, Pheasants, Ducks, and Geese, abound, while Turtle Doves are as plentiful as Sparrows with us . . . there are many Eagles and Hawks, even Merlins and Peregrines.”

In 1631 a gentleman from Bruges staying at Nicosia writes that the number of Crows was incredible, the trees being black with them; one of his party brought down several with a shot from his arquebus and thereby fell into serious trouble with the Turkish populace. The same writer refers to “the delightful music of the Nightingales.”

There are references by another author who was in Cyprus in 1683 to “certain birds not unlike Plovers,” and to another sort “not unlike Ducks with a pointed beak,” both of which destroyed locusts.

A writer in the early years of the 18th century mentions the abundance of Snipe; Dr. Pococke, F.R.S., in 1738 is attended at Papho by the chief dignitary’s Falconer with his Hawk, he identifies the local Partridge as the same as that of France and mentions the Francolin.

The most important chronicler of Cyprus under Turkish rule was the Abbé Mariti, who resided in the island from 1760 to 1767. He inserted in his ‘Travels’ a few remarks on Natural History: he writes “Among birds the commonest are Francolins, Partridges, Woodcocks, Quails, Thrushes, and every kind of waterfowl”; he also mentions the Beccafico, Ortolan, and Vultures.

Passing from the casual references of those who wrote on general matters relating to the island, we come to the first scientific writer who, so far as I am aware, visited Cyprus.

Dr. J. Sibthorp, the editor of the ‘Flora Græca’ and founder of a Professorship of Rural Economy at Oxford, visited the island in 1787; he made considerable collections and prepared important lists of and notes on the local Birds, Mammals,

Reptiles, and Fishes, his manuscript being published in 1818 by the Rev. Robert Walpole. His work was the real foundation of all the subsequent publications relative to the ornithology of the island, although not hitherto fully acknowledged as such by later writers.

Sibthorp appears to have been a thoroughly sound, cultivated and well-read naturalist, and in his interesting journal he recognises and comments upon the migratory character of many of the species which he identified, and the composite nature of the avifauna of the island. He stayed in Cyprus for at least six weeks in April and May, and seems to have made a fairly complete tour, including a visit to the Troödos range. He gives a list of some eighty-one species of birds, exclusive of domesticated varieties: he was not quite sure of the proper identification of a few, but he provides the Linnean nomenclature for those as to which he was certain, and the local Greek names of a large number. He identified the Raven, Hooded Crow, Jackdaw, and Magpie; met with the Jay on Troödos; noticed the Roller, Golden Oriole, Cuckoo, Bee-eater, and Hoopoe; found a Vulture (which he could not distinguish), the Common Kestrel, and several other species of Hawks which were new to him, the Little Owl, Mallard, Garganey (which was probably the Teal), Cormorant, and *Colymbus auritus* (*i. e.* either the Slavonian or Eared Grebe), the Black-headed, Greater Black-backed, Common and Little Gulls, the Manx Shearwater, Little Tern, Purple, Night, Great White, and Common Herons, the Little Bittern, Curlew, Oyster-catcher, Spur-winged Plover, Stone-Curlew, Moorhen, Land-Rail, Ringed Plover, Black-winged Stilt, Snipe, Redshank, Ruff, Duulin, Grey Plover, Partridge (as *Tetrao rufus*), Francolin, Pin-tailed Sand-Grouse (as *Tetrao alchata*), Quail, and the Rock-Pigeon, the Ringed, Turtle- and Collared Turtle-Doves*.

Amongst the smaller birds Sibthorp obtained or noted are the Crested and Calandra Larks; the Water-Pipit, Song-Thrush, Blackbird, Corn- and Ortolan Buntings, House- and Rock-Sparrows, *Fringilla linaria* (probably not the Mealy Redpoll

* [For an account of Sibthorp's unpublished 'Fauna Græca,' see Selater, 'Ibis,' 1904, p. 222.—EDD.]

but the Linnet), *Fringilla flaveola* (without doubt, both from the Greek name and description which he gives, the Black-headed Bunting); the Pied and Spotted Flycatchers; the Nightingale, Blackcap, Willow-Wren, Wheatear, *Motacilla ficedula* and *M. alba* (perhaps the Pied and White Wagtails), and also *M. flava*; the Coal Titmouse, Swallow, House-Martin, Swift, White-bellied Swift, Common Pratincole, and Nightjar. He also found two species of *Loxia*—probably the Crossbill—on the northern mountains.

For seventy odd years after Dr. Sibthorp's visit no further ornithological publication of any importance relative to the island appeared, though several visitors refer to the abundance of game.

In 1863 a party of sportsmen paid a visit to Cyprus, their account being published some years later in the 'Temple Bar Magazine'; amongst their bag they included a few Bustards.

In 1865 appeared at Vienna the important work 'Die Insel Cypern,' by Drs. F. Unger and Th. Kotschy. A list of birds forms part of Appendix IX., which purports to be founded on Sibthorp's journals, coupled with the personal observations of Dr. Kotschy; it is, however, scarcely more than a copy of Dr. Sibthorp's catalogue. The authors mention—excluding domesticated birds—eighty-four species, and their additions to Sibthorp's list include only the Egyptian Vulture, *Sitta syriaca*, the Rosy Pastor, the Grey-lag Goose, a Woodpecker (unidentified), the Great Shearwater, the Marsh- and Curlew-Sandpipers, and the Great Snipe. It is, perhaps, noteworthy that the occurrences of this Vulture, the Nuthatch, and a Woodpecker have not been confirmed by subsequent observers. The writers identify three of Sibthorp's unknown Hawks as the Peregrine, Goshawk, and Sparrow-Hawk, and, as far as can be seen, without good reason, omit from the former's list the Redshank, Grey Plover, Rock-Dove, Common Snipe, Manx Shearwater, and White Wagtail, though possibly perhaps some of their alterations may be due to their change of his scientific nomenclature. In fact, though frequently referred to in later publications as the basis of Cypriote ornithology, their list is little, if at

all, in advance of Sibthorp's, and is apparently less accurate and complete.

In 1875, Lord Lilford visited the southern and eastern coasts of Cyprus in the yacht 'Zara' during the spring. Notwithstanding that his stay extended only from April 14th to about May 20th, and that he thus missed the winter birds, his time was well spent; and although the results of his expedition were not published for fourteen years (during which time he had accumulated much further material), he made in the short time at his disposal many interesting discoveries—not unnaturally when it is remembered that he was the first competent modern ornithologist to study the birds of the island. He did not visit the mountains, but nevertheless added to the list many species, such as La Marmora's Falcon, the Red-legged Falcon, Lesser Kestrel, Marsh-Harrier, Barn, Short-eared, and Scops Owls; the Woodchat, Redstart, Stonechat, Isabelline, Russet or Black-throated, Eastern Pied, and Hooded Chats; the Olivaceous, Reed, Savi's, Cetti's Fantail, Spectacled, Palestine (then only just discovered by Canon Tristram), Sardinian or Black-headed, Orphean, Garden, Wood, Chiffchaff, and Bonelli's Warblers, and the Common and Lesser Whitethroats; the Great Titmouse, Black-headed Wagtail, Meadow-, Tree-, Red-throated, and Tawny Pipits; the Sky-, Short-toed, and Wood-Larks, Cretzschmar's Bunting, the Serin, the Red-rumped Swallow, the Sand- and Crag-Martins, the Common and Smyrna Kingfishers, the Wryneck; he identified the "Partridge" as the Chukar; noted the Spotted and Baillon's Crakes, Water-Rail, Common and Demoiselle Cranes, Great and Little Bustards, the Little Ringed and Kentish Plovers, the Woodcock, Jack Snipe, Common, Green, and Wood Sandpipers, the Spotted Redshank, Greenshank, Little Egret, Buff-backed and Squacco Herons, the Bittern, White Stork, Marbled Duck and Shag, the Common, Caspian, and White-winged Black Terns, *Larus melanocephalus*, the Slender-billed, Yellow-legged Herring-, and Lesser Black-backed Gulls, and *Puffinus yelkouanus*.

In 1878, shortly after the British occupation, Lord Lilford despatched a collector to the island. This gentleman, a

Mr. W. Pearse, who had had some experience with Mr. Danford in Asia Minor, spent the winter of 1878–9 in Cyprus, but his mission was, for various reasons, not very successful and he died in the island. He did, however, despatch a number of skins to Lord Lilford and was responsible for the discovery of the Saker, Pallid Harrier, Long-eared Owl, Red-backed Shrike, Fieldfare, Redbreast, Black Redstart, Great Reed-Warbler, Grey Wagtail, Spanish Sparrow, *Sturnus poltaratzskii*, Rook, Great Spotted Cuckoo, Coot, Little Stint, Sanderling, and Flamingo.

In 1879 Herr August Müller published, in the 'Journal für Ornithologie' (vol. xxvii. pp. 385–393), a paper entitled "Zur Ornithologie der Insel Cypern." This paper was the result of the despatch from Cyprus in 1877 and 1878, to Herr Wilhelm Schlüter of Halle on the Saale, of several consignments of birds' skins and eggs amassed in the neighbourhood of Larnaca by a collector whose name is not mentioned and which is not known to me. The paper added to and incorporated Unger and Kotschy's list; and, as the results of Lord Lilford's and Pearse's work had not then been published (they appeared first in 1889), it is right that credit should be given to Müller for the first publication of several important additions to the birds of the island, such as the Lesser Kestrel, Red-legged Falcon, Scops Owl, Sand-Martin, Red-rumped Swallow, Great Spotted Cuckoo, Great Titmouse, Blue Rock-Thrush, Isabelline, Black-eared, Black-throated, Eastern Pied, and Arabian Chats, the Olivaceous and Reed Warblers, the Black-headed Wagtail, Cretzschmar's Bunting, *Emberiza pyrrhuloides*, the Serin, *Caccabis chukar*, the Little Bustard, Little Ringed Plover, Little Stint, Glossy Ibis, Squacco and Buff-backed Herons, the Spoonbill, Spotted Crake, Tufted Duck, and Mediterranean Herring-Gull. He also replaces Unger and Kotschy's Garganey by the Teal.

All these species, with few exceptions, had already been noticed by Lord Lilford or Pearse, but Müller is, at any rate, primarily responsible for the addition of the Blue Rock-Thrush, the Black-eared and Arabian Chats, the Large-billed

Reed-Bunting, Glossy Ibis, Spoonbill, Teal, and Tufted Duck. He also records the eggs of many interesting species which had not previously been noticed nesting in the island, amongst them being the Red-legged Falcon, Great Spotted Cuckoo, Reed-Warbler, Quail, and Yellow-legged Herring-Gull.

In the 'Zeitschrift für die gesammte Ornithologie,' i. p. 397 (1884), E. F. von Homeyer described as *Saxicola cyprica* a form of *Saxicola morio* found in Cyprus.

In 1887, Dr. F. H. H. Guillemard visited Cyprus under the auspices of Lord Lilford, and made a somewhat extensive tour of the island. He stayed there from Feb. 22nd till June 30th and formed a considerable collection of birds and eggs. Dr. Guillemard paid a second visit from Nov. 30th, 1887, to the beginning of June, 1888, during which period he largely increased his former acquisitions.

Accounts of these two journeys were published by him in two papers in 'The Ibis'—the first, entitled "Ornithological Notes of a Tour in Cyprus in 1887," appearing in Jan. 1888, and the second, "Cyprus and its Birds in 1888," in April 1889.

Guillemard's work on these two expeditions was of the utmost importance, as, besides obtaining examples of the majority of species hitherto locally recorded, he added to the list many others not or only doubtfully identified before. Amongst these may be mentioned the Black Vulture, the Imperial and Bonelli's Eagles, the Masked Shrike, a Dipper (which he did not secure), the Palestine Bulbul, the Mistletoe-Thrush, White-spotted Bluethroat, Ehrenberg's Redstart, Whinchat, Sedge-Warbler, Subalpine Warbler, Rüppell's Warbler, Wren, Tree-creeper, Reed-Bunting, Chaffinch, Hawfinch, and Greenfinch; he discovered, or perhaps re-discovered, the Crossbill; he also found *Sturnus purpurascens*, the Pallid Swift, Pied Kingfisher, Little Crake, *Ægialitis geoffroyi*, Lapwing, Golden Plover, Bittern, Mute Swan, Ruddy and Common Sheldrakes, the Gadwall, Shoveler, Pintail, Wigeon, Pochard, and White-eyed Duck, the Scoter, Pelicans (both *Pelecanus crispus* and *P. onocrotalus*), the Black Tern, Little Gull, and Little Grebe.

From Guillemard's collections Dresser described the Coal Titmouse as a new species, *Parus cypriotes* [P. Z. S. 1887, p. 563].

In July 1889 Lord Lilford published his "List of the Birds of Cyprus" in 'The Ibis' of that date. This enumerated two hundred and thirty-one species and embodied the results of the writer's, Pearse's, and Dr. Guillemard's work, besides referring to the list of Unger and Kotschy, to the paper of Herr Müller, and to information derived from various other casual sources. This was the first systematic modern attempt at Cypriote ornithology.

In 1901 Mr. Ch. Glaszner, an Austrian subject residing at Larnaca, commenced sending to the Hungarian National Museum consignments of specimens collected by him in the island, and since that date has despatched a considerable number to similar institutions, amongst them being the British Museum and that of Mr. Rothschild at Tring.

Dr. J. v. Madarász, from Mr. Glaszner's consignments, separated as distinct several of the species resident in the island: the Scops Owl as *Scops cypria* and the Great Tit as *Parus aphrodite* in 1901 (Termés. Füzetek, xxiv. p. 272); the Jay as *Garrulus glaszneri* in 1902 (Orn. Monatsb. x. p. 163); the Dipper as *Cinclus olympicus* and the Crossbill as *Loxia guillemardi* in 1903 (Orn. Monatsb. xi. p. 5); and the Hooded Crow as *Corone pallescens* in 1904 (Orn. Monatsb. xii. p. 28). Glaszner's large consignments were found by Madarász to include as additions to the list several highly interesting species, notably *Monticola saxatilis*, *Aëdon philomela*, *Aëdon familiaris*, *Sylvia nisoria*, *Lanius minor*, *Lanius isabellinus*, *Sturnus porphyronotus*, *Scops giu*, *Circus cyaneus*, *Circus cineraceus*, *Buteo vulgaris*, *Falco subbuteo*, *Pernis apivorus*, *Mitvus iclinus*, and *Procellaria pelagica*, and to confirm the then slender claims of others such as the Dipper, Mistletoe-Thrush, Great Reed-Warbler, Ortolan, Hawfinch, Pied Kingfisher, Curlew-Sandpiper, Cormorant, and Common Gull.

From May 1901 until Nov. 1902, Miss Dorothy M. A. Bate was in the island. She obtained a number of examples of the local Wren and described it in 1903 as a new species

under the name *Anorthura cypriones* (Bull. B. O. U. xiii. p. 51), and subsequently, in 'The Ibis' of the same year, published an interesting paper entitled "Field-Notes on the Birds of Cyprus." In addition to suggesting the subspecific character of the local Tree-creeper she identified *Pterocles arenarius*, and gave instructive and new information on the local distribution of the Great Spotted Cuckoo, Blue Rock-Thrush, Coot, White Stork, Francolin, and a few other species.

In 1904 Dr. J. v. Madarász published, in the Ann. Mus. Nat. Hung., a lengthy paper "Ueber die Vögel Cyperns." In this publication he gives a complete list of the species represented in the collections sent to him by Mr. Glaszner, besides referring to the earlier works of Unger and Kotschy, Müller, Lord Lilford, Guillemard, and Miss Bate. This pamphlet is in every way a finished and scientific production, well worthy of the reputation of its distinguished author. He enumerates two hundred and forty-nine species and subspecies recorded from the island.

My residence in Cyprus has extended from July 1907 to June 1909, during the whole of which period I have made as many personal notes as my limited opportunities for travel have permitted. I have, moreover, received very valuable assistance from several well-known sportsmen who are officials in the island, notably from Mr. F. R. S. Baxendale, the Commissioner of Papho, who is carefully working his—the western—district; Mr. E. H. D. Nicolls, the Director of Public Works; Messrs. G. Wilson and G. F. Wilson, of the Secretariat; Mr. T. J. Greenwood, Local Commandant of the Cyprus Military Police; Mr. A. K. Bovill, Principal Forest Officer, and Mr. Crawford Noble, his Chief Assistant. Mr. Glaszner has lent me many rare specimens and assisted me in every possible manner.

From the end of February until my departure in June of this year, my friend, Mr. C. B. Horsbrugh, whose work in the Transvaal, and more lately in New Guinea, is well known, has been staying with me, and has made a study of the local spring migration at the freshwater reservoirs,

besides visiting the mountains. He made a large collection of skins and eggs, the bulk of which is now at the South Kensington Natural History Museum. Even with all this welcome aid our united endeavours have not as yet been able to accomplish very much, but we have succeeded in swelling the list by the addition of *Turdus iliacus*, *Turdus alpestris*, *Podiceps nigricollis*, *Gypaëtus barbatus*, *Clangula glaucion*, *Chenalopex aegyptiacus*, *Anser segetum*, *Branta bernicla*, *Turtur senegalensis*, *Houbara macqueeni*, and *Chryso-mitris spinus*, and in discovering a certain amount about the nesting, migration, and distribution of a good many species.

A word should perhaps be here said as to the local protection of wild birds and game. "Game" in Cyprus is defined to include Pheasants, Francolins, Partridges, Sand-Grouse, Bustards, Wild Ducks, Wild Geese, Woodcocks, Snipe, Quails, and Land-Rails. The inclusion of Pheasants, which have long been extinct in the island, was due, no doubt, to an attempt at their introduction shortly after the British occupation in 1878, the definition first appearing in a law of 1879. There is a summer close-season for all game; Francolins are totally protected for five years from March 17th, 1906. The taking of eggs of game-birds and the export of game are prohibited. There is a close-time for wild birds and their eggs during the breeding-season, except in the case of Sparrows, Crows, Ravens, Magpies, Doves, and a few other species thought to be harmful. The export of skins and eggs of birds is prohibited; but the High Commissioner may grant special permission to enable persons to collect and export birds and their eggs for scientific research. The local Dipper, Wren, Tree-creeper, Crossbill, Chat, Great and Coal Titmice and their eggs are, by a law passed this year, protected at all seasons. A gun-licence, including the right to shoot game, costs ten shillings, and is, as a matter of practice, issued to any person who can produce, which is not difficult, a certificate of respectability from his local "Elders." Very roughly some five thousand gun-licences are issued annually. A good many of the Cypriote upper classes, both

Christian and Moslem, are very keen sportsmen, and, I think, observe the Game Law as well as the English do; but the peasants, amongst whom to carry a gun is not only regarded as a sign of importance, but also as a surety for the safety of themselves and their flocks, are often picturesque poachers, and will at any time shoot anything worth a charge of powder and shot.

The law, both with regard to the preservation of Game and Wild Birds, is probably adequate, but its enforcement is not easy in a place like Cyprus, where there is no such thing as "game preserving," and where any one can and does shoot practically wherever he pleases. However, there are a few forest plantations in which no shooting is allowed, and the new law of this year contemplates the establishment of large "reserves."

Of the distribution of birds in and their migratory movements to and from an island geographically situated as is Cyprus, it is difficult to express opinions which may not subsequently be rudely upset, but the following remarks are put forward in the belief that they are substantially correct.

About two hundred and sixty species have been recorded from the island, in the main on very good authority. The list is one which a competent ornithologist would probably be able largely to compile by looking at a map. As time goes on and with closer observation perhaps the number will still be considerably augmented. Of real residents there are very few, and in all they barely exceed forty species, of which a Dipper, a Jay, a Coal Tit, a Wren, a Tree-creeper, a Scops Owl, a Chat, a Great Tit, and a Hooded Crow have all been accorded, on, at any rate in some cases, tolerably good grounds, subspecific rank. Of these nine local forms it is interesting to observe that the first five are entirely confined to the higher parts of the southern mountain-range.

Other typical real residents are the Common Francolin, the Chukar Partridge, the Raven, Jackdaw, Magpie, and Little Owl.

About thirty species are typical summer visitors, arriving in the island in spring, nesting and leaving for warmer

climates in autumn: birds such as the Swifts, Masked Shrike, Black-headed Bunting, and the Swallows. But I have no doubt that by no means do all of these summer visitors which arrive in the island remain to breed, many passing on and joining the ranks of the spring and autumn migrants.

Perhaps forty species are what one may term winter visitors: birds such as the Blackbird, Robin, Wigeon and some other Ducks, the Starling, and the Rook; they arrive in the autumn, remain during the winter, and leave in spring for the north. Here, again, many individuals are birds of passage only.

By far the largest class is the spring and autumn birds of passage, which arrive in spring, stay a few days or weeks, pass on to their more northern or more suitable breeding-grounds, and return in the autumn; again wait a little, though not so long, and are off to warmer places. Of course, as might be expected, there are many cases in which individuals belonging to this category do not follow the movements of the bulk of their fellows, but remain in the island either to nest or for the winter. For example, the Blackcap does both; it certainly nests and as certainly remains during the winter, but the numbers which do so are infinitesimal compared with the huge throngs which occur in spring and autumn. The Cranes, in flocks of hundreds, pass over the island, regular almost to a day, in spring and autumn; hardly any even alight, but a few are to be found in the marshes throughout the winter. Such instances might be multiplied almost indefinitely.

Regarded as a point in a migratory line Cyprus is perhaps too near to the mainland to offer a compulsory route; so close is it, indeed, and so much is its climate dominated by that of the neighbouring coasts, that a heavy spell of cold weather on the Taurus will produce a rush of Woodcock, Snipe, and Duck at almost any time.

Although, therefore, the adjoining coast of the Levant probably prevents Cyprus from being a very remarkable halting place, it is nevertheless at the migration seasons a fairly busy spot which a considerable number of migrants

utilize. There is much still to be done in the ornithology of the island which only increased interest and careful observation can accomplish. The Chats and Warblers, the Finches and Hawks, and their status in the island are amongst the more obvious tasks for the students of the Cyprus Natural History Society, founded last year, to accomplish. Subjoined is the Cypriote list brought up to date so far as I have been able to do so. For the sake of uniformity, the nomenclature adopted is, so far as is possible, that used by Dresser in his 'Manual of Palearctic Birds,' but the B. O. U. nomenclature is added, so far as it applies, in cases in which Dresser's is not the same.

1*. *TURDUS VISCIVORUS* Linn.

The Mistletoe-Thrush is apparently a winter visitor of considerable rarity. Dr. Guillemard included it in his list supplied to Lord Lilford, and Glaszner obtained a female near Larnaca. Three were noticed by Mr. R. G. Jebb, an official who was stationed for some time at the freshwater reservoirs in the Famagusta district, at that place on Oct. 28th, 1908, and from him and others I learn that the bird seems to occur every winter.

2. *TURDUS MUSICUS* Linn.

The Song-Thrush is a very common winter visitor. It arrives about the beginning of November, and though, no doubt, many individuals use the island only as a station on their journey south, a large number remain through the winter. They have all left again by the end of March, though the northern migration commences as early in the year as the middle or towards the end of January. It has been thought that this species may occasionally nest in the mountains, but though I have fairly satisfactory notes of its having been seen in April and even in the summer months on the Troödos range, I have not, as yet, authentic evidence of its breeding. It is not unfrequently shot by the Cypriote sportsmen, and sold in the bazaars for eating purposes for a piastre or two.

* The numbers prefixed to the name of each species are those of Dresser's 'Manual.'

7. *TURDUS ILIACUS* Linn.

Lord Lilford appears to have been surprised at not having received any record of the Redwing from Cyprus.

The only authentic occurrence of this bird with which I am acquainted is its appearance in very severe weather in the winter a few years ago near Nicosia, where it was noted by a well-known English sportsman, Mr. G. F. Wilson. It would be in any case only a rare winter straggler.

9. *TURDUS PILARIS* Linn.

The Fieldfare is a winter visitor, but is decidedly rare.

Pearse obtained a specimen in the winter of 1878-9, Dr. Guillemard two out of a small flock in February 1888, while Glaszner has collected a few in November and December. Mr. G. F. Wilson has recorded this species as occurring on three different occasions only, in very cold weather in November and December, in a period of eight years.

20. *TURDUS MERULA* Linn.

The Blackbird is a common winter visitor, arriving about the beginning of November and leaving in March. No doubt many individuals are merely passing migrants. It is sometimes noticed as a cage-bird, and is frequently shot and used for food, being sold indifferently with and at the same price as the Song-Thrush, though it is not nearly so abundant as that species.

24. Subsp. *TURDUS ALPESTRIS* Ch. Brehm.

A few years ago a nest and eggs of a Ring-Ousel were taken near the ruined castle of Kantara, high on the northern range of mountains, and the old birds seen by Mr. Nicolls, who is well acquainted with the English species.

In July 1907 I watched a pair on the Troödos range quite 5000 feet above sea-level, which, from their behaviour, most probably had young in the vicinity. I was at the time much struck by and noted the large amount of white on the under parts; and as I know the British

T. torquatus intimately in N. Wales, I had no hesitation in ascribing the specimens I observed to the south-eastern form, though being without a gun I was not able to obtain one of them for closer examination. I have little doubt that those recorded by Mr. Nicolls belonged to the same race.

In the absence of any other records of this species from Cyprus, it is impossible to state what is the nature of its distribution in the island. Very few ornithologists have traversed the wilder portions of either mountain-range, and there are in both many retreats where this bird would find a congenial home.

I expect that it is a casual visitor on migration, a pair or two occasionally stopping to nest in certain localities on their northward visit.

25. *MONTICOLA SAXATILIS* (Linn.).

The Rock-Thrush appears to be a somewhat uncommon visitor on migration and has very seldom been recorded. Glaszner obtained a female on Troódos on the 19th of September, 1902, and shewed me another female which he had shot at Kellia, near Larnaca, on April 15th, 1905. Mr. Baxendale sent me a third which he had shot at Papho on April 3rd, 1909.

27. *MONTICOLA CYANUS* (Linn.).

The Blue Rock-Thrush has been recorded from the island by several observers. Müller described an adult pair in the collections sent to Schlüter (1877-8), but gave no data; Guillemard obtained two—one in March 1887 in the Limassol district, and the other on May 11th, 1888, in the northern mountains; Glaszner sent two to Madarász, taken, the one (♂) near Stavrovouni Hill on February 28th, the other (♀) at Alethriko on March 18th, 1902, both places being in the Larnaca district. Miss Bate, during her stay in Cyprus, found the species not uncommon in the northern range, and in June 1902 saw several individuals among the ruins of Kantara Castle, one of which could only have left the nest a very short time; at Buffavento, another mediæval ruin in

the same mountains, Miss Bate, about the same date, observed others, and during the winter noticed the species in many different places in the range.

It would therefore appear that the bird is, at any rate, a partial resident; but I expect, in the main, it is a migratory visitor, an occasional pair nesting in likely spots, and a few halting to stay for the winter on their southerly movement. It was not met with by Lord Lilford, somewhat to his surprise, but he apparently did not visit those higher parts of the mountains where Miss Bate observed it with such frequency.

29. *CINCLUS MELANOGASTER* Brehm.

Cinclus olympicus Madarász.

The presence of a *Cinclus* in Cyprus was first recorded by Guillemard, who, in May 1887, observed, but did not obtain or identify, a bird of this genus near Kalopanayiotis, about 4000 feet above sea-level in the Troödos range. He also mentions having noticed "the Dipper" on the summit of Troödos in June of the same year. The actual discovery of the local form of the Black-bellied Dipper is due to Glaszner, who sent two examples to Madarász, one taken on October the 3rd, 1902, and the second on January the 4th, 1904, both on the southern mountains. Since that date, so Glaszner informs me, he has obtained two or three more. I observed this bird on several occasions in the summers of 1907 and 1908 on the little rocky streams near the camp on the Troödos heights; and Mr. Horsbrugh, on his visit to that range in May and June of 1909, found the species tolerably common in suitable localities, and obtained a nice series of both adult and juvenile specimens, most of which are now at the Natural History Museum, South Kensington.

This Dipper is a resident, but is far from abundant, being confined to those high portions of the southern chain where, amongst the small stones and perpetually running brooks, it can find a satisfactory home. It appears to be more common than elsewhere on the very highest slopes of the range. It must nest early in the year, as at the end of May the young are in full though, of course, juvenile

plumage. The nest, which with fully fledged young has been found by Mr. Nicolls near Kykko Monastery, has been described by him to me as of similar character to that of the British *Cinclus aquaticus*, and the eggs will, no doubt, be found typical.

I am not competent to express any useful opinion as to the propriety of Madarász's separation of the Cypriote bird as a subspecies, which that author places as intermediate between *C. albicollis* (Vieill.) and *C. cashmiriensis* Gould. The number of specimens available for examination hitherto has, I understand, been limited to about half a dozen, but the series now in London should perhaps enable the matter to be clearly determined. On general grounds it would not be surprising to find some well-marked local characteristics in a non-migratory insular species of such closely restricted range on an island chain of hills. The bird has been well known to several of the English officials for a good many years, and I am credibly informed that the peasant gunners will continue to shoot it for the "pot," though it is now entirely protected by law at all seasons.

42. *SAXICOLA ŒNANTHE* (Linn.).

The Wheatear is a common visitor on spring and autumn migration. It arrives from the south about the middle or towards the end of March, but, though a few individuals may halt till May, all practically have left by the end of April. It passes back about the end of September and in October. I have no evidence of its nesting in Cyprus.

46. *SAXICOLA MORIO* Hempr. & Ehr.

Saxicola cypriaca E. F. Homeyer (?).

I must preface my remarks on this and the succeeding five species by stating that I am by no means fully capable of dealing, at present, in an adequate manner with the Wheatears which occur in Cyprus. The nomenclature used by the earlier writers who make reference to them has rendered necessary careful inquiry into the different synonyms utilized. The local records relative to them are very meagre, and, unfortunately, Horsbrugh was, through

pressure of other work, unable to pay so much attention to this group as we had hoped, and, consequently, collected but few specimens. Mr. Baxendale sent up, in the spring of 1909, several specimens from the Papho district which baffled both of us, and a casual examination of the skins in the Natural History Museum at South Kensington completed, if possible, my doubts. I have therefore restricted my observations to apparently indubitable facts, and, at a later date, hope to be able to work out the matter in a somewhat fuller manner. With regard to the present species, I do not know if its description by Homeyer as distinct in its Cyprus form is sound, but, in view of its habits, I should, so far as I can judge, doubt any claim to difference from *S. morio*.

However, it is, without any doubt, by far the commonest Chat in the island, and I have found it at all altitudes. As *Saxicola morio* (Eastern Pied Chat), Lord Lilford calls it the "characteristic Chat of Cyprus"; Müller had large numbers of specimens and clutches of eggs, the latter taken from April the 10th to June the 1st—he names it *S. leucomela* and gives a lengthy description of the eggs; Guillemard calls it "extremely common" and obtained several nests with eggs; Miss Bate refers to it as "ubiquitous"; and Glaszner sent many specimens to Madarász obtained from spring till late autumn. Horsbrugh and Mr. C. Noble obtained plenty of nests and eggs this year in April and May. There seems to be a local idea that this Chat is permanently resident in the island, but all I can at present state is that my earliest recorded date is February the 23rd and my latest October the 9th, from which I judge that it is mainly a summer visitor. Mr. Baxendale, who has paid more attention to these birds than any one else, is of a similar opinion.

47. SAXICOLA MONACHA Rüpp.

The only record of the Hooded Wheatear from the island appears to be that of Lord Lilford, who saw two examples, of which he obtained one, an adult male, near Larnaca, on May the 5th, 1875.

55. *SAXICOLA MELANOLEUCA* (Güld.).

The Black-throated Wheatear, the Eastern form of *S. stapazina* (Vieill.), is evidently a visitor at the migration seasons to the island, but, so far, seems only to have been noticed in the spring.

As *S. stapazina*, the Russet Chat, it is mentioned by Lord Lilford as having been met with by him only once in the island; Müller records three adults taken in spring; Guillemard obtained an adult male in the Karpas district on March the 23rd, 1888; Glaszner sent five birds to Madarász collected in the Larnaca district in March and April; and Mr. Baxendale sent me a male shot near Papho on the 2nd of April, 1909.

56. *SAXICOLA ALBICOLLIS* (Vieill.).

Saxicola amphileuca Ehr.

The Black-eared Wheatear has been less frequently noticed than the preceding species, though it appears to be a similar migrant, and has hitherto only been recorded in spring.

As *S. aurita* Temm. Müller mentions an adult male obtained in spring; it was not observed by Lord Lilford or his collectors, but Glaszner sent two adult males to Madarász, taken near Larnaca on the 19th and 22nd of March, 1902. Mr. Baxendale sent me a male, shot near Papho on April the 2nd, 1909.

According to Madarász, the specimens sent to him belong to the Eastern form *S. amphileuca* Ehr., and not to the Western *S. albicollis* (Vieill.). Doubtless the others recorded belonged to the same type.

57. *SAXICOLA FINSCHI* Heugl.

One would expect to find the Arabian Wheatear a resident, or at any rate a summer visitor to Cyprus; but from the information at present available it would appear to be a winter visitor. Müller mentions an adult male received from the island; Guillemard thought it rare, and on both his visits only noticed it on some six occasions, the single specimen he obtained having been shot in mid-February 1888, not

far from Famagusta; Glaszner sent three males to Madarász from the Troödos range, two taken on February 20th, and the third on September 29th, 1902. Miss Bate states that this species evidently arrives in the island about the end of October, as she first saw it at that time both in 1901 and 1902; she found it not at all uncommon in winter on the lower slopes of the northern mountains, met with it also in the Larnaca district, and once near Papho on the 23rd of March, the latest spring date on which it was observed by her.

I do not feel justified in adding to the above any confident remark, except that Mr. Baxendale, Horsbrugh, and I consider that we have obtained specimens in April of this year.

63. SAXICOLA ISABELLINA Rüpp.

The Isabelline Wheatear is another Chat which so far appears to be a visitor on the spring and autumn migrations.

Lord Lilford regarded it as very local, but not uncommon in March and April in the Famagusta district, and he and his collectors obtained specimens. Müller records four—adults of both sexes—taken in spring, and Glaszner sent one male to Madarász, captured near Larnaca on August the 14th, 1901. I am not able, at present, to add to the foregoing records any observations which I should care to be regarded as undoubtedly correct.

66. PRATINCOLA RUBETRA (Linn.).

The Whinchat appears to be a visitor on its spring and autumn migrations, and to be not at all common. Lord Lilford did not see it, but Guillemard obtained two males in April and May 1887, in the northern hills at Akanthou and near Larnaca respectively; Glaszner sent a young bird to Madarász, taken near the latter place on September the 23rd, 1901, and Mr. Baxendale sent me a male shot at Papho on the 2nd of April, 1909.

69. PRATINCOLA RUBICOLA (Linn.).

The Stonechat appears to be a tolerably abundant winter visitor. Lord Lilford found it not uncommon in the open

country at the beginning of April; Pearse and Guillemard together record it in November, December, January, February, and March; whilst numerous specimens sent by Glaszner to Madarász were taken in January, February, March, October, and November. Mr. Baxendale, Horsbrugh, and I obtained it in 1909 from the 9th of March to the 5th of April; and I have sometimes noticed it myself in the cold weather. It seems to arrive in October and to leave at the end of March or beginning of April.

75. *RUTICILLA PHENICURUS* (Linn.).

The Redstart was first noticed in the island by Lord Lilford, who observed a few individuals in the Karpas district; Pearse sent Lord Lilford two with illegible data; Guillemard obtained a male in the Karpas on April 26th, 1888; Glaszner sent to Madarász sixteen specimens taken in various localities in March, April, September, and October. Miss Bate states that she saw a few among the pine-trees on Troödos during the summer, and found it common in winter in the low hills north of Nicosia.

During the summer of 1908 I repeatedly saw a pair near the grounds of Government House, on Troödos, where they were certainly nesting; Mr. Jebb sent me a male taken at the Acheritou reservoir in November 1908; and Mr. Baxendale, Horsbrugh, and I found and took the bird in fair numbers from the 1st to the 18th of April, 1909. Mr. Horsbrugh saw one near Papho as late as May 18th. The Redstart is no doubt in the main a visitor on the spring and autumn migrations, but, like not a few other species, often finds in Cyprus congenial winter-quarters, whilst a few stay for the summer and nest in the mountains—habits rather typical of birds visiting a middle-range place, such as is this island, with warm lowlands and cool highlands.

76. *RUTICILLA MESOLEUCA* Ehr.

Ehrenberg's Redstart has not hitherto been often recorded from the island. It was first noticed by Guillemard, who obtained an adult male near Limassol on March 11th, 1887. Glaszner sent four examples to Madarász captured near

Larnaca and on the Troödos range : one in March, one in October, and two in September. Horsbrugh and I did not find the bird very common this spring (1909), but we noticed it and obtained specimens from the 13th to the 21st March ; whilst Mr. Baxendale and Horsbrugh took a male at Papho as late as May the 21st. It appears to be a spring and autumn visitor, and I see no reason why it should not nest occasionally in the hills.

84. *RUTICILLA TITYS* (Scop.).

The Black Redstart appears to be only a winter visitor and fairly abundant, arriving at the beginning of November and leaving towards the end of March.

Pearse sent Lord Lilford two females taken on November the 21st, 1878 ; Guillemard obtained specimens on March the 11th, 1887, and January the 4th, 1888, near Larnaca and Limassol, at the latter locality finding the species " not uncommon." Glaszner sent a number to Madarász from various localities taken in November, January, and February. Horsbrugh and I observed several this spring near Nicosia on March the 18th.

93. *CYANECULA WOLFI* C. L. Brehm.

The White-spotted Bluethroat appears to be a spring and autumn migrant, though it is possible that it may be a winter visitor. It has seldom been recorded. Guillemard found some, and shot an adult male amongst the reeds at the freshwater lake near Famagusta on February the 13th, 1888. Glaszner sent Madarász four—two males and two females—taken near Larnaca in October 1901.

95. *ERITHACUS RUBECULA* (Linn.).

The Redbreast is a common winter visitor, arriving towards the end of October and leaving towards the end of March, my earliest record of its arrival being October the 25th and my latest of its departure March the 21st. It is well distributed over the island and a good many individuals can always be found in the larger gardens near the towns, whilst on the hills it is sometimes observed in great abundance.

106. DAULIAS LUSCINIA Linn.

The Nightingale arrives in the island in considerable numbers at the end of March and beginning of April. During the latter month and the early part of May the great majority pass on to the north, but, though I have not as yet personally seen the nest or eggs, I am assured that some remain for the summer and breed in the mountains. Glaszner has obtained it in the middle of September, during which month and the following its return passage doubtless takes place. It is really quite abundant at the spring migration, and from the 21st of March up till the 10th of May, 1909, Mr. Baxendale, Horsbrugh, and I took a number of specimens and must have heard and seen scores. I have often heard and seen it in a small mosque garden inside the "walled city" of Nicosia. But much later dates than ours have been authenticated. Glaszner took a specimen at the end of May near Platres, a village about 4000 feet up on the southern slopes of the southern range; and Guillemard found it common at Lefka on the 23rd and at Kykko Monastery (4000 feet) on the 25th of the same month, and noticed it on the Troödos summit (6000 feet) in early June: so that the reports as to its nidification are probably correct.

107. DAULIAS PHILOMELA (Bechst.).

The Thrush-Nightingale has only been recorded from Cyprus by Madarász, to whom Glaszner sent two specimens taken on April 14th and September 3rd.

Madarász mentions the inclusion in Unger and Kotschy's list of a bird called by them "*Luscinia philomela* Pr. Bonap.," and evidently considers that the authors intended to refer to the present species. But in view of the fact that the ordinary Nightingale, *Daulias lusciniæ*, is (as *Motacilla lusciniæ* Linn.) indubitably referred to in Sibthorp's list, whilst *Luscinia philomela* (or *Philomela lusciniæ*) was quite a common early name for the ordinary Nightingale, I am satisfied that the use of the synonym *Luscinia philomela* by Unger and Kotschy was a mere alteration by them of Sibthorp's nomenclature, and not, as it would otherwise have to be read, an intentional substitution of the one species for the other.

Although, of course, easily confused with *D. luscinia*, and more easily overlooked, I can only say that of the dozen or so specimens of Nightingales which I have handled in Cyprus none belonged to the Eastern species. But it is evidently, at any rate, a migrant in spring and autumn. One of the specimens sent to Madarász was an extremely dark variety.

109. SYLVIA NISORIA (Bechst.).

The Barred Warbler is another of Glaszner's discoveries, he having sent two young (male and female) specimens to Madarász. They were in autumn plumage, and were taken on August 28th and September 12th.

110. SYLVIA CINEREA Lath.

The Whitethroat is a visitor on migration, arriving towards the end of March and passing on by the end of April. A few pairs remain and breed in the hills. The return passage takes place about October. It was taken by Sibthorp on April 4th, having alighted on his vessel; Lord Lilford obtained a female near Larnaca on April the 21st, 1875; Guillemard two females in the Famagusta district on March the 26th, 1888; Glaszner sent Madarász a specimen taken near Larnaca on October the 13th, 1901. Mr. Baxendale, Horsbrugh, and I found the Whitethroat not uncommon towards the end of March and beginning of April 1909; and Horsbrugh came across it again in the lower hills of the Southern range, and obtained on the 9th of that month, at Kambos, a nest with four eggs.

111. SYLVIA CURRUCA (Linn.).

The Lesser Whitethroat is a common visitor on migration, arriving and departing about the same time as the preceding species. Lord Lilford found it common in the low country near water in April; two of Guillemard's specimens were taken on March the 21st and 29th; Glaszner sent Madarász a number of skins from various localities, the birds being taken in March, April, September, and October.

Mr. Baxendale, Horsbrugh, and I found this species common in company with *S. cinerea*, but did not discover it breeding.

115. *SYLVIA HORTENSIS* Bechst.

The Garden-Warbler is another visitor on spring and autumn migration. Lord Lilford and his collectors apparently did not obtain specimens, but the former records having seen and heard it in May near Papho. Guillemard mentions meeting with it at Kykko Monastery at the end of May 1887 "pouring out a torrent of song," and in June, on the summit of Troödos; Glaszner sent a male to Madarász taken at Larnaca on September the 14th, 1901. Personally we have not yet identified with certainty this species, although I have no doubt that it is our own fault that we have not done so.

117. *SYLVIA CONSPICILLATA* Marm.

The Spectacled Warbler is in the main a visitor on migration. It arrives in the middle of March and has passed by the end of April. It returns in autumn, and some undoubtedly stay in the island throughout the winter.

It was noticed by Lord Lilford only near Trikomo, in the Famagusta district; but Guillemard found it tolerably plentiful in early March on the flats between Larnaca and Famagusta, and also near Limassol, and his spring specimens include one taken on April the 7th; he also saw a few pairs later in that month. Glaszner sent a female to Madarász, taken near Larnaca in March.

119. *SYLVIA SUBALPINA* Bonelli.

The only record of the Subalpine Warbler with which I am acquainted is that of a single specimen shot on March the 7th, 1888, by Guillemard, near Ayia Napa, at the south-eastern extremity of the island.

121. *SYLVIA MELANOCEPHALA* (Gmel.).

The Sardinian Warbler is probably a visitor on migration, though no doubt some winter in the island. Lord Lilford considered it uncommon and very local, and he only noticed it in the Karpas; Guillemard found a few, but secured two only, near Limassol, in March; Glaszner sent several to Madarász, collected in various localities in September, October, November, and February, and has shown me a specimen taken on March the 24th, 1905.

122. SYLVIA ATRICAPILLA (Linn.).

The Blackcap is an exceedingly common migrant, arriving during March ; some stay and nest, but the great majority quickly move north. The return passage takes place in September and the beginning of October.

My first note of its appearance is the 6th of March, but this is very early and I do not think that the bulk arrive until towards the end of that month, when there is usually a heavy rush of migrating vernal arrivals. Those which do not remain do not stay later than the middle of April. Glaszner took specimens in March, April, August, September, and October ; and Mr. Baxendale, Horsbrugh, and I found the bird in plenty even up to the 28th of April, 1909. Horsbrugh and I discovered it nesting on the Kyrenia Hills early in May, and on the 1st found a nest with young—not remarkably early, in view of the advanced state of summer which obtains in Cyprus at that date. My first record of the return migration is the 5th of September ; but this is again early, as the bulk do not reappear until towards the end of that month ; by the middle of October or thereabouts they have again passed on south, and I have not noticed any during the winter months. Perhaps the chief interest which locally attaches to this bird lies in the fact that it is the species which forms the main strength of the “Beccaficos,” the capture and sale of which have for so many centuries formed quite a small trade in the island. Until quite recently much uncertainty existed as to the actual species which was the victim of this petty commerce : the early writers mostly seem to have thought that it was the Ortolan, but Lord Lilford was assured that it was the Garden-Warbler. Glaszner pointed out to Madarász that the bird utilized was the “Blackcap,” and explained that, naturally, other species were sometimes captured and made use of with it, such as *S. melanothorax*, *S. melanocephala*, *S. hortensis*, and, in the mountainous districts, even the Great and Coal Titmice. I have no doubt that he is right, but though I took the trouble to examine perhaps two hundred of these birds taken in September 1908, I found them all Blackcaps. The

capture is effected in various parts of the island during the autumn migration, but chiefly in the district lying between Larnaca and Famagusta. The birds are caught with bird-lime, and some idea of their abundance may be gathered from the fact that a single peasant will sometimes take as many as ten or twelve dozen during the day. They are either sold fresh, unplucked, at about twenty for a shilling, and are eaten as one would eat Larks, or preserved, undrawn, in the wine of the country and served as a savoury or light entrée, and are certainly in either case extremely palatable.

123. SYLVIA ORPHEA Temm.

Lord Lilford obtained a male Orphean Warbler near Limassol on April the 15th, 1875. It does not seem to have been met with by Guillemard; but Glaszner sent six to Madarász, taken near Larnaca in March, April, and August. I have never seen a specimen from Cyprus, but should imagine that those found in the island ought to belong to the Eastern form, *S. jerdoni* (Blyth). It is no doubt frequently confused with the Blackcap.

125. SYLVIA RUEPELLI Temm.

Rüppell's Warbler appears to be mainly a spring and autumn migrant and not very uncommon. It was not met with by Lord Lilford, but Guillemard obtained specimens near the Limassol salt-lakes in March 1887. Glaszner sent a considerable number to Madarász collected in various localities in March, but captured one in October. Mr. Baxendale sent me a specimen shot near Papho on the 1st of April, 1909, where he had observed it in some numbers, and I have seen others taken by Glaszner on the 6th of April and the 12th of May. I should think that there can be little doubt that it nests in the island.

126. SYLVIA MELANOTHORAX Tristram.

The Palestine Warbler was only described by Tristram two or three years before Lord Lilford, unaware of that fact, found the species fairly common in Cyprus. Lord Lilford first noticed it at the north-east corner of the island

on April 27th, but afterwards observed it in more or less abundance in the scrubby uncultivated grounds near the sea in all the localities which he visited. Pearse sent him many specimens. Guillemard found it, evidently arriving on migration, at the Limassol promontory on March 7th, and shot it afterwards in many different parts of the island from sea-level up to 2000 feet or more on the hills; he did not find it common on the northern side of the Kyrenia range, but met with it in December on the Mesaoria plain on his second visit. Miss Bate found it common in summer on the Troödos range at 4600 feet. Glaszner sent to Madarász alone more than a hundred specimens, taken at all times of the year and from all parts of the island.

The species is evidently in the main a summer visitor, though a considerable number remain throughout the winter. Strangely enough, the nest and eggs have not been, so far as I am aware, yet taken or observed.

To what has already been written on this bird in Cyprus I can add nothing. I have seen a fair number, and can only suggest that it nests in May.

REGULUS sp. inc.

In March 1887 Guillemard observed a *Regulus* (which he could not clearly identify) at Episkopi, near Limassol. Probably it was *R. ignicapillus* (Brehm), which is common in the Taurus range.

136. PHYLLOSCOPUS TROCHILUS (Linn.).

The Willow-Wren is another spring and autumn visitor. It was included in Sibthorp's list; he took it on his ship on April 4th. Lord Lilford found it common, but not nearly so abundant as the Chiffchaff; Pearse obtained several specimens in October; Guillemard does not mention it in his two articles. Glaszner sent Madarász seven specimens taken near Larnaca and on the Troödos range in September and October. It is rather remarkable that although I have been extremely familiar with this species from boyhood I have never heard it in Cyprus, and the only occasion when I have seen it was in early May of 1909 at Nicosia in some

numbers in the Botanical Gardens in company with many other small Warblers, most of which I was unable to identify.

137. *PHYLLOSCOPUS SIBILATRIX* (Bechst.).

The Wood-Wren appears to be a spring and autumn visitor, but a few individuals probably stay during the winter. Lord Lilford found it common in April and May in the gardens and fruit-orchards. Guillemard observed a few in mid-April near Famagusta and appears to have obtained examples; Glaszner sent Madarász a male taken near Larnaca on May the 6th, 1901. I have never heard this species in Cyprus, but I saw a few examples near Nicosia on April the 14th, 1909. On the 29th of November, 1908, I caught in my house a live male.

138. *PHYLLOSCOPUS BONELLII* (Vieill.).

Bonelli's Warbler was found by Lord Lilford not uncommon in April and May in gardens and on the lower slopes of the hills in the Karpas district. Guillemard does not mention the species in his articles, but apparently obtained specimens. Glaszner sent two to Madarász taken at Larnaca in April and July. Madarász thinks that Lord Lilford is wrong in expressing the opinion that the Chiffchaff nests in Cyprus, and considers that Bonelli's Warbler is really the species concerning the breeding of which Lord Lilford had received information. However, Bonelli's Warbler is evidently a spring and autumn migrant in any case.

139. *PHYLLOSCOPUS COLLYBITA* (Vieill.)

The Chiffchaff is a common visitor on the spring and autumn migrations and a good many remain throughout the winter. Although Lord Lilford states that he had reason to believe that it breeds in Cyprus, I have no definite evidence of its doing so.

Lord Lilford found it very abundant on the vernal migration; Guillemard noticed a small party on January the 5th, and secured one of them, and he obtained the first spring arrivals on the 8th of March; Glaszner sent Madarász specimens taken in January, February, March, and October.

The Chiffchaff is to be seen in Nicosia throughout the winter; a few of them frequented my garden in the cold weather of 1908 and 1909, from mid-October till the beginning of April. The first few warm days brings them into song and between the 14th of February and March the 25th, 1908, and again between the 1st of March and April the 2nd, 1909, their note was constantly to be heard. On March the 6th, 1908, and on March the 12th, 1909, their numbers were largely increased by, I presume, the spring migrants. After the first few days of April their song is no longer heard and they all seem to disappear about that time, my actual latest date of observation of the species being the 6th of April.

160. *HYPOLAIS PALLIDA* (Hempr. & Ehr.).

The Olivaceous or Pallid Warbler is a very common summer visitor and is to be found all over the island. It arrives about the end of April and sings vigorously till, at any rate, the end of July. It leaves about the end of September. It is, without doubt, by far the commonest Warbler of Cyprus. It nests in May and early June—I have notes of clutches from May the 8th to June the 10th—and lays sometimes three or, more often, four eggs.

Lord Lilford first identified the species in the island. Glaszner has taken specimens in September: we all found it in abundance.

165. *AËDON FAMILIARIS* (Ménétr.).

The only record from Cyprus, of which I am aware, of the Grey-backed Warbler is that of a female obtained by Glaszner on August the 28th, 1901, and sent by him to Madarász.

168. *ACROCEPHALUS STREPERUS* (Vieill.).

Lord Lilford met with the Reed-Warbler on his visit and regarded it as not very abundant; he took specimens towards the end of April in the Karpas district; Pearse met with it in October.

Müller mentions the receipt of two clutches, each of three eggs, taken on May the 22nd. Glaszner obtained one bird near Larnaca on August the 26th, 1901. None of us have yet come

across this species, but it would appear to be a summer visitor, though occurring chiefly at the spring and autumn migrations.

170. *ACROCEPHALUS ARUNDINACEUS* (Linn.).

Acrocephalus turdoides Gould, B. O. U. List, p. 19.

Lord Lilford doubtfully included the Great Reed-Warbler in his list on the strength of the remains of what was considered to be a specimen of the bird found in the stomach of a Viper sent to him by Pearse.

It was not met with by Guillemard, but Glaszner sent eight specimens to Madarász, obtained near Larnaca in September, October, and November. Mr. Baxendale informs me that he believes that this species occurs at the end of March near Papho, and there are a few suitable localities in that neighbourhood where it is possible it might nest. However, so far, it is only known to us as a visitor on the spring and autumn migrations.

175. *ACROCEPHALUS SCHENOBÆNUS* (Linn.).

Acrocephalus phragmitis (Bechst.), B. O. U. List, p. 20.

Guillemard met with and obtained the Sedge-Warbler near Larnaca salt-lake in the early half of April 1887; and Lord Lilford states that the only specimens in his Cyprus collection were two collected by Guillemard and dated, from near Larnaca, as of May the 20th of that year, though it may be remarked that on that day Guillemard was at another Larnaca close to Kyrenia on the other side of the island. Apparently the bird was not taken by Glaszner, nor have I observed it; but Horsbrugh came across a few individuals near the Acheritou reservoir in early April, though, as he did not obtain a specimen, the identification is not so satisfactory as would otherwise have been the case.

193. *LOCUSTELLA LUSCINIOIDES* (Savi).

Lord Lilford shot a single specimen not far from Larnaca on April 21st, 1875. I shot a male on some reedy banks of a small watercourse at Nicosia on April the 13th, 1909. I know of no other records. Until the reed-beds which exist

in a few places in the island are thoroughly explored by a competent ornithologist in May, very little can be said with certainty as to the status of quite a number of birds which have hitherto been only casually reported.

194. *CETTIA CETTII* (Marm.).

Cettia sericea (Temm.), B. O. U. List, p. 22.

Lord Lilford heard Cetti's Warbler once near Limassol during his visit; Pearse obtained one example on November the 11th, 1878, and Guillemard another at Lefka (not far from the sea) on May the 23rd, 1887.

These are the only local records with which I am acquainted.

199. *CISTICOLA CURSITANS* (Franklin).

Lord Lilford considered the Fantail Warbler to be common in the wheat-lands bordering the marshes; Guillemard found it abundant, in the early part of April 1887, near the Larnaca salt-lake; and Glaszner sent a specimen, taken near Larnaca on October the 19th, 1901, to Madarász. I have on several occasions in April seen a few in the close vicinity of Nicosia, and Mr. Baxendale and Horsbrugh found the bird fairly common in the Papho district from the 6th to the 25th of May, 1909. Its precise status in the island I have not yet been able to determine, but I suspect that it is a resident.

232. *PARUS MAJOR* Linn.

The Great Titmouse is a common resident. It was first noticed by Lord Lilford, and Müller mentions clutches of eggs taken on April the 23rd and May the 17th. Guillemard found it extremely common and generally distributed; while Glaszner sent a large series to Madarász, taken in various localities in every month of the year except July and December, and has obtained fledglings in April, May, and June.

To this I have little to add. I have had this bird in my garden at Nicosia from October to June and have seen it wherever I have been in the island. At Nicosia, young on the wing were noticed by me on April the 27th, 1909; Horsbrugh

found several nests in the hills, both with fresh eggs and young, in early May, and obtained the bird both in the plains and on the summit of Troödos. I propose to deal with the variations in plumage to which this species is locally subject under the head of the next species.

233. Subsp. *PARUS APHRODITE* Madarász.

From the series of skins of Great Titmice sent to him by Glaszner, Madarász separated five, from which he described *Parus aphrodite*, a form apparently intermediate in appearance between *Parus minor* Temm. & Schlegel—the Japanese Titmouse—and *Parus major* Linn. In addition, however, to the separated *Parus aphrodite*, Madarász found some fifteen specimens which he regards as crosses between *Parus major* and *P. aphrodite*: these are smaller than typical *P. major* and somewhat paler on the breast. The specimens of *P. aphrodite* were taken in February, March, May, and October, but the subspecies is evidently resident. Whether in Cyprus *P. major* is throwing off a form approximating to *P. minor*, or whether, as with its population, Cyprus is in the case of these birds the meeting-place of east and west, it is hard to say. One can only surmise, in view of the stationary character of the Great Titmouse and of the great numerical superiority of the typical *P. major*, that, if the latter view be correct, it is remarkable that such a form as *P. aphrodite* is still in existence. If, on the other hand, the former is the right theory, it is again remarkable that the form is apparently uncommon, unless the offshoot is of recent development.

Personally I have never handled a sufficient number of specimens of Cypriote Great Titmice to enable me to comment usefully on the validity of Madarász's conclusions. The nests and eggs of local Great Titmice which I have seen differ in no way from those of the typical British species. The note of the Great Titmouse in Cyprus seems weak.

239. Subsp. *PARUS CYPRIOTES* Dresser.

The existence of the Coal Titmouse in Cyprus was known

to Sibthorp, who shot it on Troödos in 1787. Its name appears, of course, in Unger and Kotschy's list. Lord Lilford did not visit its haunts, but received specimens from Pearse—from the southern range,—which were then, as up to Guillemard's visit was the case, only regarded as *P. ater* or a dark form of that species. In 1887 and 1888, however, Guillemard obtained a considerable number of specimens, from which, in the former year, Dresser described the bird as *P. cypristes*. Glaszner sent to Madarász alone two hundred examples and took nests and eggs. It is a resident, confined to the coniferous-tree-bearing areas of the southern mountains, and seldom met with except at a considerable elevation. To this I have little to add. I observed it frequently in the summer on Troödos, and Horsbrugh obtained specimens quite low down in the forest between Karavastasi and Kambos and found two nests at the latter place (*circa* 3200 feet) in early May 1909; higher up he found another with unfledged young on the 11th of May, while he saw and obtained specimens and found a fourth nest in early June on the summit. His first nest was discovered in a hole in a mulberry-tree close to the ground; the second in a cavity in a caroub-tree about fifteen feet up; the third in a hole in a bank behind a hut; of the fourth I have no particulars. Such eggs as I have examined do not appear to me to differ from those of *P. ater*. The bird's note seems very much feebler than that of its English relative.

260. *PARUS CÆRULEUS* Linn.

The only record of the Blue Titmouse appears to be that of Guillemard, who observed a single specimen in the first week of March 1887, in the Larnaca district.

286. *SITTA SYRIACA* Ehr. (?).

Unger and Kotschy place the Rock-Nuthatch under this name in their list, but on what authority I do not know. No one since has been able to verify their record.

The form *Sitta neumayeri* Michah., is, I should imagine, more likely to wander to the island than any other *Sitta*.

287. *CERTHIA FAMILIARIS* Linn.

Certhia familiaris dorothea Hartert.

The presence of a Tree-creeper in Cyprus seems to have been first observed by Guillemard, who found it tolerably abundant on the heights of Troödos on both his visits (1887 and 1888). Miss Dorothy Bate, who, during her stay in 1901 and 1902, took a series of specimens in the same locality, drew attention to their similarity to the subspecies from Asia Minor, *C. familiaris harterti* Hellm., and I believe that Dr. Hartert has designated the Cypriote form by the trinomial given above. Glaszner sent over forty specimens to Madarász alone. It would be out of place here to enter into any lengthy account of the characteristics which are stated to distinguish the Cypriote form, as they have been dealt with in considerable detail elsewhere by Miss Bate and Madarász. The bird is a resident, but is restricted to the coniferous forests of the southern mountains and, so far as I am aware, to the higher altitudes. It is not very common, but I saw a few in the neighbourhood of the Troödos hill-station in the summers of 1908 and 1909. Horsbrugh observed it in fair numbers in his journey through the range in May and June; he obtained specimens on the summit and found five fledgings already out of the nest on the 3rd of the latter month, but observed a pair still building in the roof of a hut in another locality on the following day.

I have not yet procured the eggs.

290. *TROGLODYTES PARVULUS* Koch.

Anorthura cypriotes Bate, Bull. B. O. C. xiii. p. 51.

Troglodytes cypriotis Bate, Ibis, 1903, p. 575.

Guillemard, who did not mention the Wren in his articles, was, nevertheless, the first to record this species in Cyprus, bringing back two examples from the Troödos mountains. Miss Bate, who obtained a few in the same locality during her visit, described it as a new species, and gave an accurate account of its habits and distribution. Madarász sent three to Glaszner, also collected in the same neighbourhood. The Wren is a resident, but is confined to the forests of the

southern range, and is more common than elsewhere on the highest portions. I found it in plenty in the neighbourhood of the hill-station near the summit of Troödos, singing gaily, from the commencement of July (the date of my arrival there) until the end of September. It breeds in April and May, but though Miss Bate heard of a nest on the southern slopes, I am not aware that its nidification and eggs have been hitherto described. Mr. Nicolls, whose duties cause him to visit Troödos in early spring, wrote to me: "I have found the nest of this bird almost every spring on Troödos, although, as a rule, too late to take the eggs. I have nearly always found the nest fixed in the side of a road-cutting, sometimes well, sometimes poorly concealed. It is built of dead bracken and moss and lined with fine material: it is exactly similar in size and shape to that of the English Wren, only apparently the bird has not that facility for local disguise which the English species has."

In 1909, on the 27th of April, Mr. Nicolls found two nests at Karbouna (about 4000 feet), one containing two and the other seven eggs; the former was made of dark moss placed against a white rock background, and the latter of the same material against a dark rock background. Mr. Nicolls brought me one egg; it was rather glossy, pure white, and measured $\cdot 7 \times \cdot 51$ inch.

A few days later Mr. Nicolls found a third nest built under the verandah of Government House on Troödos, between the rafter and the corner wall.

Horsbrugh met with the Wren in some numbers during his stay in the forest, *i. e.*, from May the 10th to 30th, 1909, and obtained nests, eggs, and birds. The first nest he discovered on May the 12th at an altitude of between 3000 and 4000 feet on the western side of the Troödos range, but it was empty; it was built on the crest of a bank. On the same day he found a second, not far off, in the side of a bank, with four well-fledged young. On the 29th, on Troödos, he took a nest with five fresh eggs from a cleft in a rock close to a stream at an altitude of about 5200 feet. These eggs are rather small, their average size being $\cdot 647 \times \cdot 511$ inch:

one is pure white, two have only two or three very small pale rusty spots, while the remaining two are slightly spotted. Horsbrugh brought back the first and third nests, one being almost entirely composed of moss, and the other of dry bracken.

To the ordinary observer the Cypriote Wren appears only rather darker than the typical English bird, but one of the distinctions is, according to Madarász, the great length of the bill in the local form.

293. MOTACILLA LUGUBRIS Temm.

Sibthorp in his list includes *Motacilla ficedula* as well as *Motacilla alba*. I can only suppose that by the latter name he intended to designate the Pied, and by the former the White Wagtail. But if this is so, no other observer has confirmed the appearance of the Pied Wagtail in Cyprus.

Even Unger and Kotschy discreetly omit it from their catalogue.

298. MOTACILLA ALBA Linn.

The White Wagtail is a very common winter visitor, arriving about the beginning of October and leaving towards the middle of April. It was first noticed by Sibthorp, and Lord Lilford found it tolerably common near Larnaca and Famagusta about the end of April. It was observed by Guillemard in January and March; and has also been procured by Glaszner in February. Personally, I have found the species quite abundant during the period mentioned above, as a rule in small parties, but often in scores amongst the flocks of sheep and goats. It is possible that a few may nest in the island, as at the end of May of this year (1909) I saw at close quarters a small party of three Wagtails which I could not place except perhaps as young of this species.

302. MOTACILLA MELANOPE Pall.

The Grey Wagtail is a winter visitor to Cyprus, arriving towards the middle of October and leaving towards the middle of March. It is not uncommon. It was not met with by Lord Lilford, but Pearse obtained it in November,

and Guillemard in January: Glaszner has taken it on the Troödos range in September and October.

Personally, I have had it under constant observation in Nicosia from October the 13th to March the 9th, but I have seldom seen more than half a dozen at a time near the water-tanks, pools, and open aqueducts which it frequents.

305. MOTACILLA FLAVA Linn.

The Blue-headed Wagtail is a common spring and autumn visitor, arriving towards the end of March, leaving towards the end of May, and returning on passage in early October. It is mentioned by Sibthorp. Lord Lilford found it common in all moist places in April and May, Guillemard obtained it on March the 20th, and Glaszner on October the 6th. Mr. Baxendale, Horsbrugh, and I found it frequently in many localities from March the 26th to May the 24th, and shot several examples.

307. MOTACILLA MELANOCEPHALA Licht.

The Black-headed Wagtail is a common spring and autumn migrant, arriving and leaving much about the same time as the preceding species. Lord Lilford found it common in May in similar localities to those which *M. flava* frequents, Müller mentions a specimen received by Schlüter which was taken in spring, and Glaszner has obtained it at the end of March.

Horsbrugh and I found it quite abundant in many localities from the end of March till about the end of April, often consorting in small flocks of thirty or more with *M. flava*. We obtained a number of specimens.

313. ANTHUS PRATENSIS (Linn.).

The Meadow-Pipit or Titlark is at any rate a common visitor on the spring and autumn migrations, and a good many individuals are to be found in winter. I have no evidence that it nests in the island. Lord Lilford found it not uncommon in April near the coast; Pearse obtained it in November, Guillemard in January, February and March; Glaszner in November and February.

I shot a male in January at Morphou; and Horsbrugh and I found a good many near Nicosia from March the 12th to April the 18th, 1909, and obtained some specimens.

But Horsbrugh did not meet with it on the hills in May, and, though no proper attention has yet been paid to this group in the island, I am very doubtful whether any Meadow-Pipits remain in Cyprus during the summer.

315. *ANTHUS TRIVIALIS* (Linn.).

The Tree-Pipit is also certainly a visitor at the spring and autumn migrations. I think some individuals may remain during the winter, but I do not believe that it breeds in the island. Lord Lilford found it not uncommon near Larnaca in the latter half of April, and Guillemard noticed it, evidently in some numbers, at the beginning of May. Glaszner has procured it in April, September, and October. My only note of this bird in the island is of the 1st of March, 1908, on which date I observed a few of what I took to be Tree-Pipits amongst the trees in the moat at Nicosia.

317. *ANTHUS CERVINUS* (Pall.).

The Red-throated Pipit is a visitor on the spring and autumn migrations. Lord Lilford found it not uncommon in the plains near the coast in April and May, and thought it more common than *A. pratensis*. Guillemard noticed it in small flocks of twenty or thirty on the marshy grounds near Famagusta at the end of April. It does not seem to have been met with by Glaszner; but Horsbrugh and I took one specimen on the 28th of March, 1909, and saw numbers and obtained a male and female on May the 2nd, near Nicosia.

318. *ANTHUS SPIPOLETTA* (Linn.).

The Water- or Alpine Pipit was first noticed by Sibthorp, who caught a specimen on his vessel whilst off Cyprus on April the 3rd, 1787. The species was, of course, included in Unger and Kotschy's list. Lord Lilford obtained a female near Larnaca on April the 21st, 1875, in nuptial plumage, and Guillemard a male in winter dress near Limassol on January the 5th, 1888. I am not aware that the bird has been obtained

by Glaszner. Horsbrugh shot a male on March 23rd at Acheritou, and Mr. Baxendale sent me another killed on April the 18th (1909) at Papho. I suppose that it is a visitor on the migrations, and perhaps winters in the island.

323. *ANTHUS CAMPESTRIS* (Linn.).

The only record of the Tawny Pipit from Cyprus with which I am acquainted is that of a specimen shot near Larnaca by Lord Lilford on April the 16th, 1875. It is possibly a resident.

In concluding this very inadequate account of the Pipits, I can only add that, though my recollection is full of remembrances of seeing Pipits in many places in the island, my note-book is practically blank regarding them, an omission which I shall endeavour to rectify.

330. *PYCNONOTUS XANTHOPYGUS* (Hempr. & Ehr.).

The only record of the Palestine Bulbul hitherto is that of Guillemard, who, in mid-April 1887, observed near Larnaca at close quarters a specimen of what he was satisfied was this species. It does not seem to have been met with by any other observer. I have found it a regular but not abundant visitor in spring, arriving about the beginning of May and staying, according to my observation, only about three weeks, my first date being April 30th and my last May 22nd. I have frequently seen three individuals together in my garden at Nicosia, and Horsbrugh and I this spring (1909) noticed them there from April the 30th to May the 18th. Mr. G. Wilson also saw the bird on May the 5th, 1909, in two localities close to the capital. I have seen it in captivity once in the island, but on enquiry heard that the specimen came from Smyrna. It is no doubt also an autumn migrant.

335. *ORIOLOUS GALBULA* Linn.

The Golden Oriole is a fairly common visitor in spring and autumn. It was noticed by Sibthorp as not uncommon. Lord Lilford was surprised at observing it only once. Müller mentions three spring specimens; and Guillemard,

who only observed one on his first visit, saw many between Troödos and Papho in April 1888, but was told that it was a year in which it was exceptionally abundant. Glaszner has collected a few in April and May, and shewed me a female obtained on October the 8th, 1905. I observed a few in April and May of 1908 and 1909; and Horsbrugh and I obtained or saw about a dozen birds in 1909 from the 23rd of the former to the 14th of the latter month. I never heard of this species nesting in Cyprus; but Mr. G. F. Wilson has notes of its occurrence as early as August the 23rd (1903) and August the 27th (1908), and has also seen it at the end of September.

350. *LANIUS MINOR* Gmel.

As Madarász remarks, it is certainly noticeable that the Lesser Grey Shrike does not appear to have been recorded by anyone prior to Glaszner, in view of the fact that it is by no means an uncommon visitor in spring and autumn. Glaszner sent to Madarász some twenty-two adult and immature specimens taken at Larnaca in August and September, and he considers it quite abundant at that season. Horsbrugh and I saw and obtained specimens in several localities at the end of April and beginning of May 1909, but in my opinion the bird is not very common, and we never saw more than three or four in a day, and not quite a dozen in all. My first date was April the 24th and my last May the 3rd, so it does not seem to stop long.

352. *LANIUS COLLURIO* Linn.

I cannot find any clear reference to Shrikes prior to Lord Lilford, though Sibthorp in his journal states that "the two species of *Lanius* confine themselves to the pine-woods with the Black Titmouse." He does not, apparently, include any *Lanius* in his list, and I am inclined to think that he meant *Loxia* (*vide infra*, no. 495).

Lord Lilford did not meet with the Red-backed Shrike, but Pearse obtained specimens in November, while Guillemard found it only in the north of the island and on Troödos, at the latter place in early June. Glaszner sent a good many

examples to Madarász taken in August and September. I obtained a specimen (a male) on the 27th of July, 1908, and Horsbrugh and I saw and obtained several in the first week in May 1909, near Nicosia. It is a visitor on spring—and autumn—migration, and possibly some individuals may nest in the pine-forests in the hills.

353. *LANIUS ISABELLINUS* Ehrenb.

The Isabelline Shrike is only recorded from Cyprus, so far as I am aware, by Madarász, who received a female from Glaszner, taken near Larnaca on November the 8th, 1902.

369. *LANIUS AURICULATUS*, Müll.

Lanius pomeranus, Sparrman, B. O. U. List, p. 38.

The Woodchat-Shrike was met with once only by Lord Lilford, one of whose companions obtained a male in the Karpas district on April the 26th, 1875. It does not seem to have been noticed by Pearse or Guillemard; but Glaszner sent quite a young bird to Madarász, unfortunately without data, which the latter is convinced must have been bred in the island. Horsbrugh and I saw a few examples in April 1909 and obtained specimens; and Mr. Baxendale sent me up from Papho a male and female, both taken in the same month. Our first note of the bird was on the 8th and our last on the 26th of April. No doubt it is in the main a visitor on the spring and autumn migrations, and apparently may sometimes nest in the island.

370. *LANIUS NUBICUS* Licht.

The Masked Shrike is a very common summer visitor, arriving at the end of March and leaving at the very end of September or early October. It nests abundantly in the hills, and is found in numbers in the highest parts of the mountains. It seems to have been first noticed in the island by Guillemard, who found it both on the north side of the northern range and in a few places on the southern; he brought back a good series of skins and some nests and eggs. Glaszner also collected a large number of adult and juvenile specimens from March to September. Horsbrugh in 1909

noticed the first arrival on March the 29th at the Acheritou reservoir, and from that date until he left the island in June procured a number of specimens and plenty of nests and eggs in the hills. He took a much incubated clutch of seven eggs near Kambos on May the 10th, and found young in a nest on the Troödos summit on June the 1st, where the bird was very abundant. But he also took fresh eggs as late as the 12th of May, and on the 9th found a nest with only one egg. Some of the eggs are very handsome, and the nests are in several instances almost entirely composed of rough cotton or woollen refuse or discarded cord and thread. On the 31st of May Horsbrugh shot a Jay on Troödos which, whilst struggling on the ground, was attacked and mobbed viciously by four Masked Shrikes.

[To be continued.]

XXX.—*Supplementary List of the Birds of the Alexandra District, Northern Territory, S. Australia.* By COLLINGWOOD INGRAM, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

IN the 'Ibis' 1907 (p. 387) I described a collection of birds from Alexandra, a cattle-station in the Northern Territory of South Australia. They were all obtained by Mr. William Stalker, who consigned the specimens to England as soon as they were ready for transit. Of three cases so despatched, two arrived safely within the year: the third, and last, only reached its destination a few months ago! The birds contained in the last case have been carefully examined and named by Mr. Gregory Mathews, to whom I am indebted for the following detailed list, which I now publish as a supplement to my first paper. Nineteen species are thereby added to the birds of Alexandra, making a total of a hundred and ten. This may be considered a fairly complete list of the birds occurring in the district under notice, as Mr. Stalker was occupied for nearly two years in making the collection. The nomenclature of the list follows that of Mathews' recently published "Handlist" ('Emu,' vol. vii. Suppl.).